DELAY IN GRANT OF PENSIONS

*221. [18] **Sri. A. M. Thomas:** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Finance be pleased to state:—

(*a*) is it a fact that there is long delay in the grant of pensions to retired Government servants;

(*b*) has the Government taken any steps to improve the position?

Minister for Finance and Revenue **(Sri. A. J. John):**

(*a*) Consequent on the reduction of the age of superanuation from 58 to 55 a large number of persons had to be retired suddenly on 1st Chingam 1124. Though they were given compensation leave up to a maximum of 8 months, delay in settlement of pensions beyond the above periods was caused in a few cases owing to difficulties in settling their liabilities.

(*b*) Yes. Detailed instructions have been issued directing Heads of Departments to forward pension papers within a month from the date of retirement.

MINIMUM WAGES

*222. [20] **Sri. A. M. Thomas:** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Labour be pleased to state., whether the Government intends to extend the operation of the Minimum Wages Act to Estate and Agricultural Labour?

Chief Minister **(Sri. T. K. Narayana Pillai):**

It is not necessary to extend the operation of the Minimum Wages Act to employments in Plantations and in Agriculture. The Act applies to them.

LAND ACQUISITION

*223. [21] **Sri. K. W. Muralidhara Marar:** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Revenue be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the land acquisition money due to the Y.M.C.A., Ernakulam has been paid;

(*b*) if not, the reasons for the delay in payment of the same?

Minister for Education, Labour and Civil Supplies **(Sri. Panampilli Govinda Menon):**

(*a*) No.

(*b*) There has been no avoidable delay in the matter. The objections of the Y.M.C.A. authorities in regard to the amount of compensation had to be heard and the question had to be further examined in consultation with Y.M.C.A. authorities. The terms now offered by them are being examined.

SOUTH INDIA CORPORATION

*224. [22] **Sri. K. W. Muralidhara Marar:** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Labour and Civil Supplies be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any report from the Director of Industries regarding certain irregularities committed by South India Corporation (a firm in Mattancherri) in their dealings in controlled commodities;

(*b*) if so what action they have taken in this matter?

Minister for Industries, Excise and Local Self-Government **(Sri. N. Kunjuraman):**

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under investigation.

TIMBER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

*225. [23] **Sri. Paul Thaliath:** Will the Hon'ble Minister for Forests be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to give at concession rate timber for the construction of Schools and College Buildings by private individuals;

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